

World-renowned Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos to perform in Hong Kong in October (with photos)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has invited the internationally acclaimed Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos to visit Hong Kong in October. Together with his longtime collaborator, the Italian pianist Enrico Pace, Kavakos will present an unparalleled recital in which music fans will be able to experience the virtuosity of the maestro.

The recital programme covers four French works in different styles from the 19th and 20th centuries, including Ravel's "Sonata No. 1 in A minor, 'Posthume' ", Poulenc's "Sonata for Violin and Piano, FP 119", Debussy's "Sonata in G minor, L. 140" and Franck's "Sonata in A".

Kavakos is recognised across the world as a violinist and artist of rare quality, acclaimed for his matchless technique, captivating artistry, superb musicianship and the integrity of his playing. Born into a musical family in Athens, Kavakos first learned to play the violin when he was 5. By the age of 21, he had already won three major international competitions, including the International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition in 1985, the International Violin Competition "Premio Paganini" and the Naumburg Competition in 1988. He was named the Gramophone Artist of the Year in 2014, and awarded Denmark's most prestigious classical music award, the Léonie Sonning Music Prize, in 2017. Kavakos has developed close relationships with major international orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. He has also toured the United States (US) with regular recital partners pianist Emanuel Ax and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and Europe with pianist Yuja Wang.

Pace won the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in 1989, which marked the beginning of his international career. He has performed with many major orchestras such as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, and more. Also, Pace has toured extensively, performing in Europe and South America, and has performed at numerous festivals including those in Verbier and Lucerne, among others. He enjoys on-going relationships with renowned musicians, performing with them throughout Europe, the US and Asia.

The "Encore Series: Violin Recital by Leonidas Kavakos" will be held at 8pm on October 23 (Monday) at the Concert Hall of Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$200, \$280, \$360, \$440 and \$520 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_1587.html.

A pre-concert talk entitled "The Colourful Violin Sonatas of the French Masters" (in Cantonese) will be held at 6.45pm on October 23 at Level 4 Foyer, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The speaker will be music practitioner Albert Ho. Admission is free, with limited seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The LCSD presents the Great Music 2023 from September to November. Various internationally acclaimed musicians and ensembles will come to Hong Kong to perform an array of exciting and diversified music programmes. For more details, please visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/groups_1576.html.

